

GLOBAL HUMAN ECOLOGY

Sociology 4007; Fall Semester, 2005
 Tuesday/Thursday, 2:00 – 3:15
 BESC 185

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3:30 – 5:00

OVERVIEW: In this course, we will examine global environmental issues from sociological perspectives. We'll critically consider issues such as overpopulation, world hunger and poverty, resource management and shortages, environmental impact of population dynamics, and strategies for change.

SPECIFIC AIMS: Following this course, students should be familiar with:

- ◆ several theoretical perspectives used to examine interactions between society and the environment;
- ◆ examples of the ways in which socio-economic processes, such as globalization, impact the environment;
- ◆ examples of the ways in which environmental context shapes social processes, such as population change.

READINGS: We will work out of one reader, with additional material from the Population Reference Bureau. We will also review several academic articles and policy reports, with these being available through the course website. The following are available at the CU Bookstore:

- ◆ Leslie King and Deborah McCarthy (Editors). 2005. *Environmental Sociology: From Analysis to Action*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.; Lanham MD. ISBN 0-7425-3508-8.
- ◆ From Population Reference Bureau (www.prb.org):
 - ◆ *Critical Links: Population, Health, and the Environment* by Roger-Mark De Souza, John S. Williams, and Frederick AB Myerson (2003) Population Bulletin Vol 58, No 3. ISBN032-0468X
 - ◆ Women, Men, and Environmental Change: The Gender Dimensions of Environmental Policies and Programs (2002);
 - ◆ Ripple Effects: Population and Coastal Regions (2003);
 - ◆ Finding the Balance: Population and Water Scarcity in the Middle East and North Africa (2002);
 - ◆ Children's Environmental Health: Risks and Remedies (2002);
 - ◆ World Population: More than Just Numbers (1999);
 - ◆ Population Change, Resources, and the Environment (1998).

EVALUATION: There are 4 components of course evaluation, as outlined below. **The final exam will take place on Saturday, Dec 10, 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Any student *not* taking the final exam will fail the course. No exceptions.**

<i>Percentage of final score</i>	
Weekly Assignments	40
Midterm Exam	20
Final Exam	30
Participation/Attendance	10

Thursday, Oct 6, during class
Saturday, Dec 10, 7:30 am to 10:00 am

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS: As apparent from the evaluation breakdown, the 11 weekly assignments comprise a large part of grades assigned for this course. The weekly assignments are typically due each Thursday and will require 1 paragraph in response to a discussion question posted on the course website the Thursday prior to the due date. The question will require students to synthesize and think critically about the week's readings.

Professor Hunter will make only cursory editorial and substantive comments on the weekly assignments. The assignments will be graded on a 5 point scale, with 5 being the highest grade. A description of the grading scheme follows.

- ◆ 5 points: excellent, well written synthesis and critique;
- ◆ 3 points: good synthesis and critique; a few grammatical issues.
- ◆ 1 point: below average synthesis and critique; grammatical issues.
- ◆ 0 points: unexcused absence or assignment with very slim content and/or many grammatical problems.

Students are allowed 3 excused absences throughout the course of the semester, which is quite generous. An excused absence is one for which Professor Hunter is notified BEFORE class (email is fine, but must be BEFORE class). Students with an excused absence on a weekly assignment due date can turn the assignment in by 5:00 the following Monday. **No assignments (not even early ones) will be accepted for unexcused absences.** No excuses or exceptions granted.

MISC:

If you qualify for accommodations because of a **disability**, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services (DS) early in the semester (**by the end of the 3rd week**) so that your needs may be addressed. DS determines accommodations based on documented disabilities (303-492-8671, Willard 322, www.colorado.edu/sacs/disabilityservices)

Please review the course schedule ASAP. If you have conflicts between religious observance dates and course examinations or assignments, let me know by the end of the 3rd week of class of the conflict in order to arrange accommodation.

The University has developed a **classroom behavior** policy. Students are required to adhere to the behavior standards listed in the Rights and Responsibilities Regarding Standards of Conduct and to refrain from disrupting classes and other academic settings. The specific policy may be found at: <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html>

Both students and faculty are expected to abide by the University's honor code, details found at: <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/> Cheating and plagiarism are to be taken very seriously and are grounds for failure in the course. In a general sense, to **plagiarize** is to use another's words as your own, without proper attribution given to the original author. Please find more specific information through links on the honor code website.

Please come see me, call me, or send an E-mail, if you have any questions, concerns, or problems!

DETAILED SCHEDULE**Week 1, Aug 23 & 25: Introduction & Background**

- ◆ Mills, C. Wright. 1996 (originally published 1959). "The Promise." Pp. 1-7 in *Mapping the Social Landscape*, edited by S.J. Ferguson. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield. Available on the course website.
- ◆ Deborah McCarthy and Leslie King (in King and McCarthy). Portions of "Introduction: Environmental Problems Require Social Solutions." pp. xi – xvii (up to "A Brief History).

No Writing Assignment

Week 2, Aug 30 & Sept 1: Environmental Sociology: Topics and Types

- ◆ Humphrey, Lewis and Buttel. Portions of Chapter 1 "Exploring Environmental Sociology." pp. 1 – 19 (up to "Roots of Environmental Sociology"). Entire chapter available on the course website.
- ◆ Humphrey, Lewis and Buttel. "Key Issues in the Field." pp. 29 – 31 (up to "Summary"). Entire chapter available on the course website.

Writing Assignment #1 due Thursday, Sept 1

Week 3, Sept 6 & 8: Laying a Demographic Foundation

- ◆ Population Reference Bureau. 1999. *World Population: More than Just Numbers*. Washington DC.
- ◆ Population Reference Bureau. 1998. *Population Change, Resources, and the Environment*. Washington DC.

Writing Assignment #2 due Thursday, Sept 8

Week 4, Sept 13 & 15: Frameworks: Human Ecology and Political Ecology

- ◆ Humphrey, Lewis and Buttel. Portions of Chapter 1 "Exploring Environmental Sociology." pp. 19 – 23 (start at "Roots of Environmental Sociology", up to "The Rise and Revitalization of the Environmental Movement"). Entire chapter available on the course website.
- ◆ Robbins, Paul. Chapter 1 "The Hatchet and the Seed" in *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*, pp. 1 – 15. Available on the course website.

Writing Assignment #3 due Thursday, Sept 15

Week 5, Sept 20 & 22: Applying Frameworks

- ◆ Julia Fox. "Mountaintop Removal in West Virginia: An Environmental Sacrifice Zone." Chapter 2 in King and McCarthy, pp. 16 – 28.
- ◆ Oriol Pi-Sunyer and R. Brooke Thomas. "Tourism, Environmentalism, and Cultural Survival in Quintana Roo." Chapter 4 in King and McCarthy, pp. 43 – 60.

Writing Assignment #4 due Thursday, Sept 22

Week 6, Sept 27 & 29: Applications to Development: Natural Resources and Rural Livelihoods

- ◆ Caroline Ashley. 2003. "Livelihood Dynamics: Rural Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe." *IDS Bulletin*. 34, 3, July, pp. 15-30.
- ◆ Thursday, Sept 29: Guest speaker, Paula Palmer, from Global Response (<http://www.globalresponse.org/>)

Writing Assignment #5 due Thursday, Sept 29

Week 7, Oct 4 & 6: Institutions and Common Property Environmental Resources

- ◆ Garrett Hardin. 1968. "The Tragedy of the Commons." *Science*. 162, 3859, 13 December, pp. 1243-1248. Available on course website.
- ◆ Blake D. Ratner, Alberto Rivera Guttierrez. 2004. "Reasserting Community: The Social Challenge of Wastewater Management in Panajachel, Guatemala." *Human Organization*. 63, 1: 47-57. Available on course website.

Midterm Exam Thursday, Oct 6

Week 8, Oct 11 (Oct 13th = Fall Break): Institutions and Common Property Environmental Resources

- ◆ Steven R. Brechin. 2003. "Wandering Boundaries: The Political Ecology of Protected Area Deforestation in South Sumatra Indonesia from 1979 to 1992." Chapter 4 (pp. 59 – 71) in *Contested Nature: Promoting International Biodiversity with Social Justice in the Twenty-first Century*. Steven R. Brechin, Peter R. Wilshusen, Crystal L. Fortwangler, Patrick C. West (Eds). SUNY Press: Albany NY.

No Writing Assignment

Week 9, Oct 18 & Oct 20: Natural Resources: A Gendered Perspectives

- ◆ Population Reference Bureau. *Women, Men, and Environmental Change*.

Writing Assignment #6 due Thursday, Oct 20

Week 10, Oct 25 & Oct 27: Environmental Mobilization

- ◆ Moore, Mik. "Coalition Building between Native American and Environmental Organizations in Opposition to Development: The Case of the New Los Padres Dam Project." Chapter 224 in King and McCarthy, pp. 371 – 393.
- ◆ Myron Peretz Glazer and Penina Migdal Glazer. "On the Trail of Courageous Behavior." Chapter 29 in King and McCarthy, pp. pp. 451 – 467.
- ◆ Thursday, Oct 27: Guest speaker, Chris Allan, from Global GreenGrants Fund (www.greengrants.org)

Writing Assignment #7 due Thursday, Oct 27

Week 11, Nov 1 & Nov 3: Population, Health and the Environment

- ◆ Population Reference Bureau. 2003. *Population, Health and the Environment*.
- ◆ Population Reference Bureau. 2002. *Children's Environmental Health: Risks and Remedies*.

Writing Assignment #8 due Thursday, Nov 3

Week 12, Nov 8 & Nov 10: Environmental Dimensions of HIV/AIDS

- Rachel Slater and Steve Wiggins. "Responding to HIV/AIDS in Agriculture and Related Activities." *Natural Resource Perspectives*. Overseas Development Group, Department for International Development. 2005. No. 98. Available on course website.
- Lori M. Hunter Wayne Twine, and Aaron Johnson: [Population Dynamics and the Environment: Examining the Natural Resource Context of the African HIV/AIDS Pandemic](#). IBS Working Paper, EB2005-0004, University of Colorado at Boulder. Available from Institute of Behavioral Science Working Paper Series website: http://www.colorado.edu/ibs/pubs/working_papers.html

Writing Assignment #9 due Thursday, Nov 10

Week 13, Nov 15 & Nov 17: Environmental Dimensions of Food Security

- ◆ Devereux, Stephen. 2002. "The Malawi Famine of 2002." *IDS Bulletin*. 33, 4: 70-78.
- ◆ Delali Dovie, ETF Witkowski, CM Shackleton. 2003. "Direct-use value of smallholder crop production in a semi-arid rural South African village." [Agricultural Systems](#). 76, 1: 337-358. Available on the course website.

Writing Assignment #10 due Thursday, Nov 17

Week 14, Nov 22 (Nov 24 = Thanksgiving Break) Globalization and the Environment

- ◆ Emery Roe and Michel JG Van Eeten. 2004. "Three—Not Two—Major Environmental Counternarratives to Globalization." *Global Environmental Politics*. 4, 4, pp. 36 – 54. Available on the course website.

No Writing Assignment

Week 15, Nov 29 & Dec 1: Globalization

- ◆ Barndt, Deborah. "Tangled Routes: Women, Work, and Globalization on the Tomato Trail." Chapter 14 in King and McCarthy, pp. 205 – 225.
- ◆ Peter Freund and George Martin. "Driving South: the Globalization of Auto Consumption and Its Social Organization of Space." Chapter 15 in King and McCarthy, pp. 226 – 238.

Writing Assignment #11 due Thursday, Dec 1

Week 16, Dec 6 & Dec 8 Discussion & Review

Final Exam, Saturday, Dec 10th, 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.